

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, August 10, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at the Buena Vista Community Center, 715 E. Main Street, Buena Vista, Colorado. Earl Richmond called the meeting to order at 7:39am.

Members present were Co-Chair Earl Richmond, Marcus Trusty, Gary Crowder, and Dan Hamme. Also in Parks and Recreation Supervisor Emily Osborn, Recreation Program Coordinator Ashley Davis, and Pickleball Ambassador Stephanie McDonald.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gary Crowder moved to approve the July 2016 minutes. Dan Hamme seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Earl suggested that under “other items” we add a discussion on adding board members. No other alterations or additions. Gary Crowder motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Dan Hamme seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Comment

Ongoing Discussion Items:

- I. Discussion re RFP (4 Projects): Emily reported that they had a meeting with the firm two weeks ago during which they supplied her with the updated scope of work. There will be a public meeting on Monday, August 15 at 6pm to gather input from the community. On Tuesday the Firm would like to meet with the Recreation Board to gather their input. Brandy said that the Recreation Board will have the most say on the Community Center Park, so the focus will be mostly on that.

The school has sold the baseball field to the Town, and the Town will be selling a parcel of land in the Rodeo Grounds to the school district to be a place holder until the new facility is built. Regardless, there will be a 99 year lease so the baseball teams can continue to use the field until the new field has been completed. Emily stated that the new field will cause the disc golf course to be re-routed. Designs will include a basic level design, a mid-level design, and one with all the bells and whistles. The drawings should be done by October 21 and the GOCO grant is due mid-November.

The Sunset Vista IV Park will need to be ADA accessible. Currently, there is \$50,000 in an account, so Town would match that with other funds. There would be trail connection from the current trails system, and it looks like someone is in the process of buying the surrounding land to develop the community.

The Community Center Park will require on-street ADA compliant parking. If the swing sets were to be removed, they would be able to utilize more space for other features. They are hoping to design the area with a water fountain, a pedestrian crossing beacon, a fence, and ADA fill for the park and circuit area. Emily wants to know what the Recreation Board thinks about meeting with Frontera. Dan, Marcus, and Gary they would all be able to attend, but

two of them would need to leave by 8:30am. Earl will not be available. Everyone is curious if the design team has a connection with a company to then build the park or if we'd have to bring it to another company such as Playworld anyway. Marcus' concern is that a playground company wouldn't be able to meet the budget that the design company put together. Earl suggested we see if Julie Robinson would want to come to that special meeting.

- II. Discussion re Community Skating Rink: Brandy Reitter has been trying to get a time together to meet with Dan which has, so far, been unsuccessful. Emily reported that the slab is no longer a good option for the rink, according to Brandy. She would like to put it in the river park, and said the excavation costs could be tied in with the excavation for the new field. Earl asked about the electric issue, and Emily said it was that, a sewer easement, and rent-to-own situation for the property that is putting this on hold. Ashley stated there needs to be some policy adopted about accountability to groups that have fundraised for facilities to be put in if the Town determines they need to be moved or relocated. Earl is curious what the benefit would be to put in half of the rink on the slab to at least get more exposure and show some forward movement. Gary wants to know what Dan's suggestion is, what he sees as the best way to move forward. Dan sees the traction of the project going away so he is inclined to maybe put something in place to show donors and community members that they can still make progress. He believes there should be different liners that would fit the smaller rink. Ashley suggested that maybe another recreation department would be getting rid of a shade structure and BV REC could acquire it for free or a cheap price to suffice until a decision is made and it is permanently installed. Also, Amy Varble had looked into different sized bladders in the past, so maybe Dan could connect with her to get more info. Dan would also like to put something before the Board of Trustees to present everything and see what their vision is. Marcus suggested to bring it through during the work session because the Trustees will be there as well as administration. Earl suggested Dan talk to Brandy as a first step and then go from there. Currently, there is \$5050 in donations for the rink in the account. Lariat Bar and Grill has discussed some fundraising idea, and Ashley suggested maybe showing "Miracle" at the Drive In as a fundraiser.

New Discussion Items:

- I. Discussion re Pickleball Presentation: Stephanie McDonald, as a US Pickleball Ambassador in BV, came to the board to present some ideas from the pickleball group. Pickleball has been around for over 50 years and is a combination of ping pong, badminton, and tennis. The local pickleball group has hosted learn to play clinics, demo days, and advanced clinics. The "Learn to Play" clinic brought in \$505 this past fall. Sarah Ansboury, a nationally ranked player, was brought in to hold an advanced clinic and that brought in \$625 after paying out to her. Regular play has brought in about \$7000 since play began two years ago. 66% of players in US are ages 60+, which is why it's successful in Buena Vista, according to Stephanie. She is hoping for support as numbers keep growing both nationally and locally, also because all levels and types of people can play. Estimated cost to convert the current River Park Basketball Court is \$24,000 and it would take about \$26,000 to convert the old skate park slab. Earl is curious what "dedicated" space would mean. Stephanie said that it would be permanent post holes, with removable nets, that would be used seasonally. Earl is

curious what other sports could use this surface during the off season and Steph reported that tennis mainly would be able to use that surface but she's not sure if the surface would hold up to other sports. Dan asked if the basketball goals would have to be moved if they were to use the River Park Court. Steph said yes, but possibly they could be moved to the skate park slab. Emily asked about if using tennis nets was an option and Steph said that some places use roll down nets that lower, but lines would still be an issue. Tape does not stick well to the rubber surface and tennis players tend to pull up the lines anyway. Earl asked about if they were to put in a new slab, and Steph said that it would be about \$100,000 for four courts worth of concrete. Earl also asked if three courts are enough for future growth. Steph said no, but for now they would suffice. She stated that for tournaments they could possibly mark the tennis courts and have four more courts there if necessary. The tennis courts are a bit small to put four permanent pickleball courts on the tennis surface. Earl suggested that our biggest discussion is what group will be displaced the most at which location before we can go forward. Marcus suggested fixing up Forest Square basketball court or checking options for growth within both disciplines. Gary suggested DPCA's outdoor basketball court, but Steph thinks is smaller and the pea gravel gets on the court from the playground. Earl asked about the timeline and funding for this project, if the Town would be responsible, or if the Pickleball Group would be paying. Steph reported that they'd be looking for Conservation Trust Fund monies to help facilitate this build. Emily and Earl both stated that it would unlikely get in the 2017 budget, but we could maybe push it for 2018. The Recreation Board will need to look at the Master Plan and consider if this is something to include and pursue as a department. Marcus suggested we look at River Park plan, Master Plan, etc. and figure out the best way to move forward. Marcus asked what the months are that they play outside- Steph reported that they play May through September depending on weather.

- II. Discussion re Budget: Emily handed out an update on our budget expenses and revenues for this year to date. We are currently exceeding our expected incomes by quite a bit, but have also over-spent in those areas.
- III. Discussion re Recreation Update: Softball tournaments are coming to a close this week and BV REC will be hosting the "Golden Bat" tournament this coming Saturday. New fall programming is on the way with Women's Volleyball League and a Flag Football League. All other programming will be similar to past years: pickleball, adult open gym basketball, open gym volleyball, PiYo, Zumba, Dance, etc.
- IV. Discussion re Other Items: Emily reported that Chaffee County has been awarded with the GOCO Inspire grant. Other local partners contributed for a total budget of \$100,000. The initiative has a ten month time line. This is a planning grant that will identify the barriers that underserved families in Chaffee County face when it comes to their participation, or lack thereof, in outdoor activities. At the end of the ten months, the coalition will apply for implementation funding. They have just hired a program coordinator in Salida; the first

meeting was on Monday. There will be another meeting held in Buena Vista at the Community Center on August 25th at 130pm.

This weekend is Gold Rush Days, so BV REC will be putting on the Golden Bat Tournament and the 5K Run.

Dave Volpe, Brandy Reitter, and Emily met with Bureau of Land Managment folks about a trails coordinator position within town and what that would look like as far as seed money and commitment from both ends. The BLM said they'd most likely have money at the end of September and they would know more financial details then. Brandy seems pretty on board so Emily is doing research on similar positions in similar towns to see how they operate.

Board Vacancies will need to be posted for the public, however, first Earl will check in with current members. Lisa Ortega has not been present for some time and Julie Robinson may be open to holding a regular seat, so Earl will contact both to determine what availabilities and seats will need to be posted.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned by Earl Richmond at 9:34am

Respectfully submitted:



Ashley Davis, Recreation Program Coordinator



Earl Richmond, Co-Chair